

VYOA Music Director Troy Peters Announces Departure

Colchester, VT – Troy Peters, Music Director of the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association, has announced that he is leaving the organization at the end of this concert season. He has accepted the position of Music Director for the Youth Orchestras of San Antonio, Texas. Within the scope of his new position, Peters will also serve as conductor of the YOSA's Philharmonic Orchestra, a full symphonic orchestra comprised of the South Texas area's finest young musicians.

This is a bittersweet parting for Peters. "I have been extremely fortunate to work with the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association for the last 14 years," remarks Peters. "When I arrived in Vermont, I hoped that the VYOA would be able to expand and to explore new horizons; but this organization's capacity for growth and adventure has consistently astonished me." He adds, "Most of all, I am grateful to our students musicians, who have impressed me time and time again with their ability to raise the bar one notch higher in pursuit of musical excellence."

Peters began his tenure at the VYOA in 1995. Under his guidance, the organization has nearly tripled in size and the VYOA has achieved a national reputation for excellence. Peters created opportunities for VYOA musicians to collaborate with a widely-diverse pool of guest artists, including Midori, Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR), Jaime Laredo and Trey Anastasio. He has also been a proponent for the performance of contemporary music and has championed the works of composers who live in Vermont. This commitment to new music has been nationally recognized by the seven ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming presented to the VYOA over the past decade.

Peters led the VYO in their debut at Carnegie Hall in 2004, presenting a program of works written by living Vermont composers. The performance garnered national press attention, including profiles on National Public Radio and *CBS News Sunday Morning*. In 2007 Peters led the VYO on a successful two-week concert tour of China. In July he will take the orchestra on tour again for performances in Québec and France.

Peters will assume his new post at the Youth Orchestras of San Antonio in August. The VYOA expects to appoint interim conductors for the 2009-2010 concert season, and will embark on a national search for a new Music Director during the coming months.

"Troy has touched the lives of hundreds of young musicians in Vermont," remarks Caroline Whiddon, VYOA Executive Director. "His leadership and vision have elevated the VYOA to great artistic heights. We will spend the next few months celebrating the remarkable impact he has had on this organization and the broader Vermont music community."

For additional information, please call 802-655-5030 or visit www.vyo.org

Photo: Jordan Silverman